

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A rubber cylinder sleeve for an offset printing press, the rubber cylinder sleeve having a circumferential direction, an axial direction, and a width in the axial direction, the width having an axial center, the sleeve comprising:

an inner carrier sleeve which can be expanded outwardly using air; and

a rubber covering on the inner carrier sleeve, the rubber covering comprising a first layer bonded to said carrier sleeve and having compressible layer elements and a second layer having elastic layer elements, the elastic layer elements being uniform in the circumferential direction and prestrained to varying degrees as a function of axial position so that the sleeve has a tangential stiffness profile which varies in the axial direction and is symmetric with respect to the axial center of the sleeve.

2. (currently amended) A rubber cylinder sleeve as in claim 1 wherein the tangential stiffness profile affects the speed profile of a conveyed paper web in a range of -0.5% to +0.5% across the width of the web.

3. (previously presented) A rubber cylinder sleeve as in claim 1 wherein said rubber covering further comprises a third layer over said first and second layers, said third layer consisting of rubber.

4. (previously presented) A rubber cylinder sleeve as in claim 1 wherein said tangential stiffness profile is convex.

5. (previously presented) A rubber cylinder sleeve as in claim 1 wherein said tangential stiffness profile is concave.

6. (previously presented) A rubber cylinder sleeve as in claim 1 wherein said tangential stiffness profile is double convex.

7. (previously presented) A rubber cylinder sleeve as in claim 1 wherein said elastic elements are filaments.